(b) Other State Governments have also requested to increase royalty on coal.

(c) A Committee has been constituted on 02.06.2005 under the Chairmanship of Additional Secretary (Coal) to consider revision of rates of royalty on coal and lignite. The Committee would submit its report after taking into consideration the views of all stakeholder viz., the coal producing States, major coal consumers and others.

Right of coal mining

†1024. SHRI P.K. MAHESHWARI: Will the Minister of COAL be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are contemplating on extending the right of mining of coal from coal mines facing closure to cooperative society;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the total number of coal mines facing closure at present; and

(d) whether Government are contemplating on formulating a national policy for the employees displaced from the same in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COAL (DR. DASARI NARAYAN RAO): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise in view of answer to (a) above.

(c) A total of 6 coal mines of the Coal India Limited (CIL) are facing closure during 2006-07 due to exhaustion of the reserves.

(d) The employees engaged in the mines of CIL where reserves have exhausted are being re-deployed in nearby mines/new projects of CIL.

Coal reserves under BCCL

†1025. DR. MURLI MANOHAR JOSHI:
SHRI RAVI SHANKAR PRASAD:

Will the Minister of COAL be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that there is 4.6 billion tonnes of coal reserves under the jurisdiction of Bharat Coking Coal Limited where mining work is not going on at present;

† Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

(b) if so, the facts thereof;

(c) the total area of land where these coal reserves exist;

(d) whether Government have recently formulated and scheme for undertaking mining work with regard to these reserves; and

(e) if so, the details of this scheme?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COAL (DR. DASARI NARAYAN RAO): (a) and (b) As reported by Coal India Limited, out of 4.6 billion tonnes of such coal reserves, only about 1.833 billion tonnes falls under the command area of Bharat Coking Coal Limited (BCCL). The balance coal reserves are under non-CIL blocks of Jharia coalfields. Out of total 9 blocks mainly Parbatpur, Mahal, Sitanala, Kapuria, Aluara, Gourigram, Pipratand-Singra, Kalyanpur, West Mohuda (South) having estimated geological reserves of about 4.6 billion tonnes, only 2 blocks *i.e.* Kapuria & Pipratand-Singra with reserves of about 1.833 billion tonnes belong to BCCL. Out of the rest 7 blocks, five blocks namely Mahal, Sitanala, Parbatpur, Gourigram and Aluara have been offered as captive blocks. Of which, Parbatpur has already been allotted to M/s Electro Steel.

(c) The total area of land for the 9 blocks is about 95.31 sq.km. and for 2 blocks under BCCL command area it is about 29 sq. km.

(d) and (e) Project Report for Kapuria is being prepared by Central Mine Planning and Design Institute Ltd. (CMPDI) and detailed exploration in Singra block is also being done by CMPDI.

Passport Office in Shimla

†1026. SHRI KRIPAL PARMAR: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) the States that do not have any passport office till yet;

(b) whether passport office has not been established in Shimla, the capital of Himachal Pradesh, so far;

(c) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(d) by when a passport office would be set up in the State capital to save the people from the difficulties of going to Chandigarh and to make passport expeditiously?

† Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.